

Kirn House
HO-872
5270 Waterloo Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
ca. 1900, ca. 1920
Private

The Kirn House (5270 Waterloo Road) is a ca. 1900 wood-frame house with a ca. 1920 kitchen addition located south of Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland, adjacent to the confluence of Route 104, Route 100, and Route 108. The house faces southeast and is set on an approx. 1/2-acre lot on Waterloo Road (Route 108). The house is the only building on the property.

The Kirn House is a 2-story cross-gable house with porches, towers, and dormers that give the house an irregular form characteristic of the Queen-Anne style. The house has a stone foundation, steel siding over the original wood siding and an asphalt roof. The house retains its wood windows and has three types of sash. The predominant window type is a 6-over-1 window. Two-over-two and windows with a large pane bounded by small panes over a single are found on the kitchen and kitchen addition. The house displays Queen Anne style design features including use of bays, towers, overhangs, and wall projections to avoid plain flat walls and use of several wall materials or differing textures wherever expanses of planar wall do occur.

The Kirn House has significance as one house in a group of houses along Waterloo Road (5260, 5266, and 5270 Waterloo Road and 8416 Elko Drive) that were constructed and/or renovated by Jacob Kirn, his sons, and sons-in-law at the turn of the 20th century. Kirn House and the other houses on Kirn's Hill represent the nascent suburbanization of the farmland in the eastern section of Howard County. The properties also embody early 20th century architectural trends including the Queen Anne Style.

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-872

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

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The primary 3-bay facade the house faces southeast. The primary facade is composed of a 2-bay front gable and recessed tower entry bay. The 1st story front gable has two window openings. The 2nd story front gable has two window openings. Window openings are graduated and symmetrically placed, but the 2nd story openings are closer together. A pent roof encloses the gable and saw-cut brackets support the pent roof and frame the windows. The gable displays a wood cornice with returns. The tower entry is 2-1/2 stories in height with a tall pyramidal roof. The main entry, composed of door opening and 1-light transom, is located in the 1st story of the tower. The front door is a wood replacement door. The 2nd story has been altered to hold a pair of sliding glass doors. The current owner noted that the opening previously held a pair of French windows that opened onto the porch roof. An L-shaped, 1-story, hipped-roof porch wraps the front facade. The porch retains its wood deck, chamfered wood posts, and wood ceiling.

The 5-bay northeast (side) elevation has four sections. First, the southernmost bay is the side elevation of the front gable. The 1st story has one window opening and the 2nd story has one window opening. The 2nd-story opening is located in a gabled dormer that breaks the 2nd story eaves. A tall, corbelled brick fireplace chimney is located north of the dormer.

Second, a 2-bay cross-gable projects from the center section of the northeast (side) elevation. The composition of the cross gable replicates that of the front gable. The 1st story has two window openings. The 2nd has two window openings. Window openings are graduated and symmetrically placed, but the 2nd story openings are closer together. A pent roof encloses the gable and saw-cut brackets that frame the windows support the pent roof. The gable displays a wood cornice with returns.

Third, one part of the northern section of the northeast (side) elevation is composed of the original kitchen. A 1-story bay projects from the kitchen and houses a powder room. The window opening in the 1st story of the kitchen bay has a top sash with a large pane bounded by small panes. The 2nd story of the kitchen does not have any window openings.

Fourth, the ca. 1920s kitchen addition has a low-pitched pyramidal roof that echoes the entry tower. A 1-story story bay projects from the kitchen addition and houses a pantry. The window opening in the 1st story of the kitchen addition bay has a 2-over-2 window. The window opening in the 1st story of the kitchen addition has a top sash with a large pane bounded by small panes. The 2nd story of the kitchen addition has two window openings, which hold 2-over-2- windows.

The northwest (rear) facade of the house is composed of the northwest elevation of the cross gable and northwest elevation of the ca. 1920s kitchen addition. The 1st story of the northwest elevation of the cross gable is concealed by the 1-story kitchen porch. The 2nd story of the cross gable has one window opening located in a gable dormer that breaks the eaves of the roofline. The northwest elevation of the kitchen addition has one recent 1st story window opening that holds a 2-light sliding window.

The 7-bay southwest (side) elevation has five sections. First, the southernmost bay is the side elevation of the front gable. The 1st story has no openings. The 2nd story has one window opening located in a gable dormer that breaks the eaves of the roofline.

¹ The owner noted that the gables have fish scale shingles under the steel siding.

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Second, the southwest (side) elevation of the entry tower has one window opening on the 1st and 2nd stories, which are vertically aligned and graduated.

Third, the southwest (side) elevation of the cross gable replicates that of the front gable. The 1st story has two window openings. The 2nd has two window openings. Window openings are graduated and symmetrically placed, but the 2nd story openings are closer together. A pent roof encloses the gable and saw-cut brackets that frame the windows support the pent roof. The gable displays a wood cornice with returns.

Fourth, the side elevation of the kitchen 1st story has a door and a window opening. The door opening has a recent door. The window has an upper sash with a large pane bounded by small panes. The 2nd story of the kitchen has one window opening located in a gabled dormer that breaks the eave line of the roof.

Fifth, the 1st story of the kitchen addition has one window opening, which holds a 2-over-2 window. The window has an upper sash with a large pane bounded by small panes. The 2nd story has two window openings that hold 2-over-2 sash. A 1-story shed roofed porch extends across the kitchen and kitchen addition. The porch retains its original wood frame and is enclosed with recent lattice work that replaced older wood lattice work.

Interior

The interior of the Kirn House has been altered over the years. Although minor changes have been made to the floor plan, the interior retains many of historic features, including a finely detailed stair, which matches the one at 5260 Waterloo Road, and wood floors, doors, and trim. The front door opens into the stair hall, which occupies the tower. A second floor in the stair tower intersects the stair awkwardly, and may have been added.

In the 1st floor, the stair tower opens to the parlor to the east, which occupies the front gable. The stair tower opens to the north to a large room that occupies the entire cross gable area (now used as a family room). The owner indicated that this room had previously been divided into two rooms and that the eastern room had been connected to the front parlor via a door that now opens to a closet. The kitchen and kitchen addition are located north of the current family room. The interior of the kitchen and kitchen addition now is a single continuous space. Two interior doors in the kitchen and kitchen addition lead to the projecting bay that houses a pantry and a powder room. An exterior door, leading to the side porch, is also located in the kitchen.

The 2nd floor has bedrooms and a full bath. The current owner noted that the tower had housed a second kitchen in the mid-20th century. The trim in the 2nd floor of the tower does not match the trim in the rest of the 2nd floor. Thus, I believe that the tower was originally an open double-height space and that the second floor was inserted at a later date. Additionally, the 2nd floor bathroom is probably not original to the house. Originally, the bedroom in the front gable (behind the bathroom), which is now only accessible through the tower, probably opened off of the hall.

Site

Originally a 2.4-acre property, the Kirn House is now set on an approx. 1/2-acre lot. The current owners recently subdivided the property and there are a few new homes at the rear of the site. The lot slopes upward from the street and the house is set atop the rise. The house is set in a lawn that is dotted with mature specimen trees. The current owners have augmented the landscape with perennial gardens and ornamental shrubs.

The area surrounding the Kirn House has seen a great deal of change in recent years. A new traffic circle and highway interchange are now located immediately southwest of the property. These roadways pass directly through previous Kirn's Hill house lots and their construction led to the demolition of the Frank Boggs House (HO-148), constructed by Grover Kirn.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates ca. 1900, ca. 1920s

Architect/Builder Jacob Kirn (builder)

Construction dates ca. 1900, ca. 1920s

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Kirn House has significance as one house in a group of houses along Waterloo Road (5260, 5266, and 5270 Waterloo Road and 8416 Elko Drive) that were constructed and/or renovated by Jacob Kirn, his sons, and sons-in-law at the turn of the 20th century. Kirn House and the other houses on Kirn's Hill represent the nascent suburbanization of the farmland in the eastern section of Howard County. The properties also embody early 20th century architectural trends including the Queen Anne Style.

Owners and occupants

Four families have held long-term ownership of the Kirn House: the Kirns (1903-1920), the Lewrenzes (1920-1936), the Davises (1938-1970), and the Springers (1972-present). The early owners, the Kirns and the Lawrenzes, were of German heritage. Because German ships frequently docked in Baltimore, many Germans settled in Maryland in the 18th through early 20th century.

In 1903, Jacob and Mary Kirn bought the property from Thomas Gaither, a local farmer, and his wife. This purchase occurred two years after the Kirns sold their house on Elko Drive. The Kirns appear in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 census on Waterloo Road, adjacent to their children. I believe, therefore, that 5270 Waterloo Road is either the house that they built for themselves or it was built for one of their daughters and they did not transfer ownership. In 1910, Jacob Kirn (aged 61) - a farmer- lived with his wife Mary (age 58), daughter Clara (aged 33), son Jacob (aged 27) - a house carpenter, son Charles (aged 27) - a house carpenter, son August (aged 24) - a house carpenter, son Grover (aged 23) - a house carpenter, son Ferdinand (aged 16), who worked on the family farm and daughter Ruth (aged 14).² In 1920, Jacob Kirn (aged 71) - house carpenter, lived with his wife Mary (aged 68), daughter Ruth Ledbetter (aged 24) - a telegraph stenographer, granddaughter Elizabeth Ledbetter (aged 3 1/2) and daughter Clara Kirn (aged 45).³ In 1930, Jacob (aged 81) still lived in one of the Kirn's Hill houses with his daughter Clara.⁴

The Kirn's sold the house to Albert Lawrenz in 1920. The Lewrenz family moved to Howard County from 1800 West Pratt Street in Baltimore City, which is along the railroad line in West Baltimore just north of the Carroll Mansion. In 1920, Albert (aged 53) - who owned a coal yard, lived with his wife Augusta (aged 56) and his son John (aged 27) who drove for a coal dealer (presumably his father). The Lawrenzes were German immigrants who became citizens in the mid-1890s.⁵ In the 1900 and 1910 Census, Albert was

² Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Thirteenth Census of United States: 1910, Population Schedule**, E.D. 51, Sheet 15B, 16A.

³ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Fourteenth Census of United States: 1920, Population Schedule**, E.D. 118, Sheet 2A.

⁴ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Fifteenth Census of United States: 1930, Population Schedule**, E.D. 14-5, Sheet 8A.

⁵ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Fourteenth Census of United States: 1920, Population Schedule**, Baltimore City, E.D. 321, Sheet 7B.

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listed as a stationary engineer, who is someone that operates boilers, engines, and generators in industrial facilities.⁶ By 1930, Albert and Augusta Lawrenz lived at 5270 Waterloo Road, where Albert (aged 63) was farming.⁷

⁶ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Thirteenth Census of United States: 1910, Population Schedule**, Baltimore City, E.D. 197, Sheet 15A.

⁷ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Fifteenth Census of United States: 1930, Population Schedule**, E.D. 14-5, Sheet 8A.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. **Census of United States: Population Schedule, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.**
Howard County Land Records, Dorsey Building, Columbia. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.
Goold, Jennifer. Interview with Kenneth Springer, February 7, 2005.
McAlester, Virgia and Lee. **A Field Guide to American Houses.** New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .4 acres
Acreage of historical setting 2.4 acres
Quadrangle name Savage Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Kim House corresponds to Howard County Map 31, Grid 13, Parcel 66, which is the building's current legal lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	February 8, 2005
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

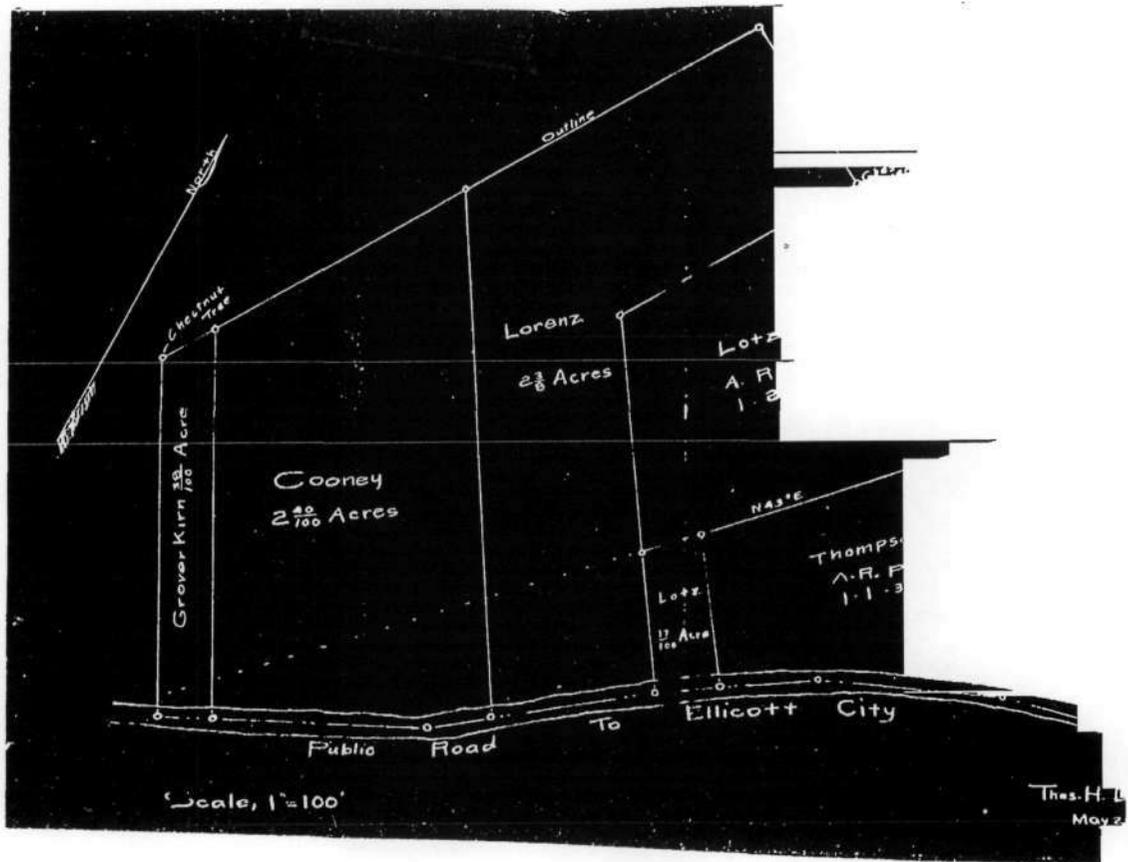
HO-872
 Kirn House
 5270 Waterloo, Ellicott City
 Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS.	PRICE	ACREAGE	COMMENTS
Edwin H. Gillas and Betty L. Gillas	Kenneth J. Springer and Jeanne M. Springer	05-05-1972	591	672	Deed	5.00	2.404 acres	
Emory H. Davis and Fannie G. Davis	Edwin H. Gillas and Betty L. Gillas	09-25-1970	541	243	Deed	5.00	2.404 acres	
Henry W. Heber and Dorothy M. Heber	Emory H. Davis and Fannie C. Davis	05-06-1938	160	148	Deed	5.00	2.404 acres	
Henry M. Heber and Dorothy M. Heber	Dennis P. Gaither	11-18-1936	155	423	Mortgage	1100.00	2.404 acres	
Albert J. H. Lewrenz, widower (Baltimore City)	Henry W. Heber and Dorothy M. Heber (Howard County)	11-18-1936	155	422	Deed	5.00	2.404 acres	
Jacob Kirn and Mary E. Kirn	Albert J. H. Lewrenz and Augusta Lewrenz	06-10-1920	110	268	Deed	5.00	2 3/8 acres	Being part of the parcels of land conveyed to the grantors herein by Thomas H. Gaither and wife by deed dated April 17th, 1903 and recorded in Liber 77, folio 115



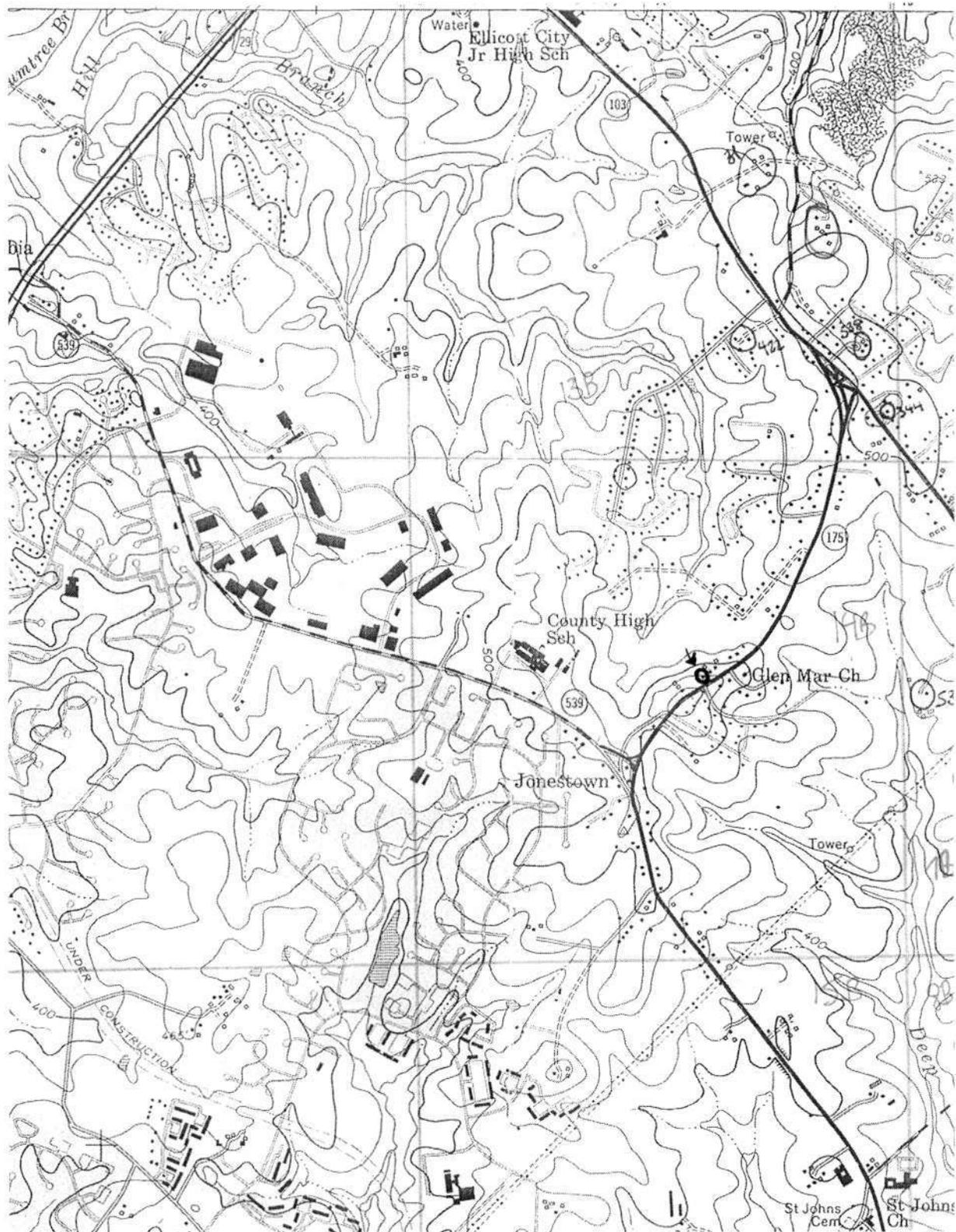
Kirn House (HO-872)
5270 Waterloo Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
Site Plan/Aerial Photo



Received for record 15" June, 1920 at 3 o'clock P. M. same day recorded and examined per.

..... Clerk.

Kirm House (HO-872)
 5270 Waterloo Road, Ellicott City
 Howard County
 1920 Plat



Kim House (HO-872)
5270 Waterloo Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
USGS Savage Quad



HO-872

Kiv n House.

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

Feb 7, 2004

MD SHPO

View NW. Shows house + site.

log 5

ART-2611 <NO. 31 >022
967 1212 -1 N N-4 22 <044>©



HO-872

Kir n House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Goold

Feb. 7, 2004

MD SHPO

View NW. Shows south + east facades.

2 of 5

ART-2614 <NO. 32 >023
967 1717 -1 N N-4 09 (044) ©



HO-872

Kirk House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

Feb. 7, 2004

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 33 >024
967 1217 -1 N-N-4 48 <044>0

View N. Shows South - West facade.

3 of 5



Ho-872

Kinn House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Goold

Feb. 7, 2004

MD SHPO

View SE. Shows

4065

north + west facades.

ART-2611 <NO. 29 > 020
967 1212 -1 N N T- 2121 296
(0443) 0



HO-872

Kirn House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

Feb. 7, 2004

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <NO. 30 > 021
967 1217 -1 N N 1- 02 <044> @

View S. shows north + east facades.

5065